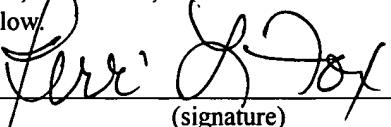




CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.


(signature)

Date of signature and deposit - March 30, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: STEFFENS et al.) Group Art Unit:
))
Serial No.: 10/768,369) Examiner:
))
Filed: January 30, 2004) Attorney Docket: 24048
))
For: PROPANE TANK VENDING))
) MACHINE)

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Sir:

Pursuant to Sections 1.97 and 1.98 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, record is hereby made of published prior art which the United States Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider during examination of the above-entitled application. No representation is made or intended that a prior art search was conducted, or that no better art than that listed is available.

U.S. Patent Documents - No., Date, Name

1,530,288 Mar. 17, 1925 Balkema

4,391,388 Jul. 5, 1983 Krakauer

4,498,603 Feb. 12, 1985 Wittenborg

4,778,042 Oct. 18, 1988 Warren et al.

U.S. Patent Documents - No., Date, Name

4,842,161	Jun. 27, 1989	Krakauer
5,176,285	Jan. 5, 1993	Shaw
5,253,782	Oct. 19, 1993	Gates et al.
5,313,393	May 17, 1994	Varley et al.
5,586,665	Dec. 24, 1996	Brousseau
5,829,630	Nov. 3, 1998	Fernald
6,206,237	Mar. 27, 2001	Dillon et al.
6,467,603	Oct. 22, 2002	Castleberry

Foreign Patent Documents - No., Date, Country

None

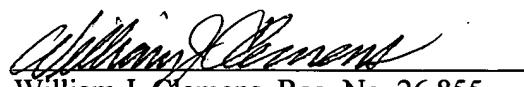
Publications - Author, Title, Date, Pages, Place

None

The relevance of the U.S. Patent Nos. 1,530,288 and 4,778,042 is discussed in Applicants' specification at page 1. The relevance of the U.S. Patent No. 5,829,630 is discussed in Applicants' specification at page 2. The remaining references relate in general to vending and dispensing machines.

A Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith. It is requested that each of the references be fully considered and made of record in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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